The Rehabilitation Council of India is constituted for regulating and monitoring the training of rehabilitation professionals, promoting research in rehabilitation and special education and the maintenance of a Central Rehabilitation Register. The Council has also started a Bridge Course for unqualified special teachers/rehabilitation workers and orientation training for medical officers working in Primary Health Centres.

Under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are running rehabilitation centers for leprosy cured persons, manpower development centres for mental retardation and cerebral palsy, special schools and vocational centres with the financial support from the Central Government.

Financial assistance is also given by the Central Government for Purchase/ fitting of aids and appliances, use of mass media, exhibition, workshops, etc.

A sum of Rs. 260.44 crores (Plan Rs. 231.93 crores+Non-Plan Rs. 28.51 crores) has been allocated for the schemes/programmes for the Welfare of the disabled in 2001-2002 out of which an expenditure of Rs. 86.37 crores (Plan Rs. 72.87 crores+Non-Plan Rs. 13.50 crores) has been incurred so far.

A lump-sum provision of Rs. 65.44 crores has been made for implementation of the schemes of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in the North-Eastern Region and Sikkim for the fiscal year 2001-02. The amount utilized in these areas for assistance to the disabled will be booked to this head of account.

Foreign investment in advertising and film Sector

*400. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit 100 per cent foreign investment in advertising and film sector;

(b) if so, whether this would be through the automatic route;

(c) if so, by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) the preventive measures that are being introduced?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is already permitted in the film sector subject to certain sectoral guidelines. Foreign Direct Investment to the extent of 74% is permitted at present in the advertising sector. The proposals are routed through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board. No decision has been taken for altering these guidelines.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Constitution of Disinvestment Commission

†2890. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have recently constituted a new Disinvestment Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons for constituting the said Commission and the details of responsibilities assigned to it;

(c) whether it will be mandatory for Government to accept the recommendations of the said Commission; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) To secure expert counsel on matters relating to disinvestment. The terms of reference of the Commission are as under:

(i) It shall be an advisory body and its role and function would be to advise the Government on Disinvestment in those public sector units that are referred to it by the Government.

(ii) It shall also advise the Government on any other matter relating to disinvestment as may specifically be referred to it by the Government, and also carry out any such other activities relating to disinvestment as may be assigned to it by the Government.

(iii) In making its recommendations, it will also take into consideration

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.